

REMARKSIntroduction

Claims 1-4, 7-17, 19 and 20 are pending in this application, wherein claim 1 has been amended and claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein to place the application in condition for allowance. It should be noted that the Applicants do not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejections, but rather have elected to amend the claims in order to expedite prosecution of the application leading to issuance of a patent.

Claim Objections / Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-17, 19 and 20 are allowable and claims 6-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Feldt in view of Adams et al

Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feldt (US Patent No. 4,682,376) in view of Adams et al (US Patent No. 3,932,903).

Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 6, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of this Amendment, Applicants submit that claim 1 is *prima facie* allowable, whereby the rejection of claim 1 over Feldt in view of Adams et al is moot. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 8

Claims 2-4 and 8 each ultimately depend from base Claim 1, which, as amended, Applicants believe to be allowable.

Final Remarks

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 7-17, 19 and 20 are now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicants request that this Amendment be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicant requests that any required fees for filing this Amendment be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below should any questions or comments arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS



Christine E.M. Orich
Registration No. 44,987

Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 684-5000

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